

ALL KANSAS CITY IS INTERESTED IN THE SENSATIONAL CHARGES WHICH HAVE BEEN LODGED AGAINST DR. BENNETT CLARKE HYDE

FORMER NURSE RECOUNTS DEATH SCENE OF SWOPE

Says the Dead Man Requested Her on No Occasion to Allow Dr. Hyde to Enter His Room.

(Continued from First Page.)

striding post called Wyandotte, where the "ugh" of the Indian was the general greeting, until the day of his death, at eighty-two years of age, he was "Colonel" Swope.

It is with his death, said by some to be part of a deep murder plot, that this story in the main must deal. For if the finger of suspicion is pointed unerringly as well as accurately in a certain direction, then a condition of affairs has been uncovered that for a parallel one must hark back to the days of the Borgias.

On the other hand, if the blasting breath of unfounded rumor has scorched a reputation, an injustice that is irreparable has harmed a man, an injustice that cannot be silenced now that the tongue of gossip has wagged incessantly and harmfully.

In the summer of 1896 a stalwart, good looking young man arrived on the scene. His name was Swope. He had tilted the fields of Kentucky with pecuniary profit, but his ambition outran the quiet acquiescence of a farmer and his instincts were those of a pioneer.

He Knew How to Make Things Pay.

Tom Swope showed himself a money getter. He was shrewd, struck a bargain with a rare sense of its ultimate value, and in the language of an old timer, who is still alive, "knew how to make things pay."

He bought property in St. Louis, purchased lot after lot in Chicago—when that city was a stranger to civilization—and sent his gold also into the shafts of Tennessee's mines. All brought him millions eventually, and he never knew the pinch of want from Wyandotte to death.

There was one strong feature in his character. He cared greatly for his family. Back in Kentucky were three brothers. Tom sent for them all, only two responded. One, who was named William, is incidental to this story.

The other brother was Logan Swope, who came to Kansas City after the war. He was a lawyer, but his practice was not altogether confined to the bar of justice, and for that reason he did not create a shining reputation.

ENTER JUDGE CHRISMAN.

At the period when this narrative has reached the arrival of the brothers it is necessary to digress for a moment and introduce Judge William Chrisman. He had founded and for years was the president of the national bank at Independence, a little town that forms a suburb of Kansas City.

He was a man of considerable parts, the influential citizen of the section, the country judge who tempered justice with originality, and was generally beloved as a prudent, far-sighted chieftain of commerce and arm of law.

Judge Chrisman had a daughter. Her name was Margaret. She was the heiress to the jurist's wealth, which touched six figures. Suitors she had by scores as the most eligible miss in this portion of the States for miles around.

But she never showed her cavaliers the slightest preference until Logan Swope appeared on the scene.

His introduction to Miss Chrisman came in accordance with convention. They met but once and Dr. Hyde had struck another bullseye. Judge Chrisman, however, was not at all jubilant over the turn that fate had taken in his affairs, but as he believed in allowing his daughter to marry the man she loved he interposed no serious objections. A generation ago Logan Swope and Margaret Chrisman were married. Seven children were born of their union.

The education of the children was the best that money could buy, and the girls became accomplished and the recognized belles of the best circles. The boys, though, were cast in a different mold. Tom Swope, named for his millionaire uncle, seemed to have imbibed that atmosphere of acquisitiveness that surrounded the man for whom he was named, and he turned with a natural talent to the mart. Chrisman Swope, the eldest child, on the other hand, was a shy, reserved man.

Judge Chrisman, the father of Mrs. Logan Swope, died a score of years ago, and the major portion of his property, valued at hundreds of thousands, passed into the hands of his daughter, Mrs. Logan Swope.

Matters in the Swope family moved along naturally without undue rapidity or undue stagnation until the death of Logan Swope about ten years ago. His children had all grown, and when he died he was mourned by all.

Chase for Gold.

Colonel Swope was rapidly changing, too. Attacked by indigestion that made his life a torment he was paying for his relentless pursuit of wealth with the sacrifice of health. He became irascible to such an extent that he was the pet aversion of those with whom he did business, an utter terror to everybody, and his friends fell away slowly because they could not forget nor forgive the fiery outbursts of temper to which he was prone without cause or justification.

His sole companion left when hoary age was bending his back, whitening his hair and bringing him down to the "gray" of the shadowed was James "Boss" Hutton, a cousin of Tom Swope, and his closest friend. When others would flee before the violent wrath of the ancient dyspeptic Moss would quiet his cousin and bring him back to the paths of sense again.

However, Colonel Swope began to take a great interest in his nieces and nephews. They were dutiful toward him. His foibles they ignored, his fiery outbursts they chose to forget and they seemed to have carved a niche for themselves in the cantankerous affection of their aged relative.

With this picture of Colonel Swope's existence painted in the imagination of the reader, we must break the continuity of the story to introduce two other characters. Their importance is

of such vital concern to the narrative that an extended introduction of them is an essential.

The second child that came to brighten the existence of Logan Swope was a handsome baby girl.

She was called Frances Lee Swope. She was endowed with all the qualities of headstrongness that governed her mother when old Judge Chrisman tried to turn the channel of her love away from Logan Swope. A woman of strong will, unbending nature, but a diplomat whose graciousness made her victories bearable to the vanquished, she was indeed a woman one could not easily forget.

When her father Logan Swope, died, Frances Lee Swope, took the scepter of power and exercised a rule over the family that could not be brooked until her romance came.

HISTORY REPEATS.

ONE day a handsome young chap named Bennett Clarke Hyde came into her life. His birthplace was at Lexington, Mo., and his father was a Baptist minister. He met Frances Swope, and after the meeting, like that of her mother, more than a generation before, the one man in the world had been found.

Family history seemed to be running in cycles in her case also; for Mrs. Swope frowned upon Dr. Hyde the moment she met him as a future son-in-law. At that time he was the police surgeon of Kansas City, and strange stories came out that coupled his name with peculiar matters. As a result of one story, regarding the method of treatment that he prescribed for a negro woman, Dr. Hyde was placed under charges and dismissed as the police surgeon.

His troubles had no bearing upon his relations with Frances. Her mother headed and begged that she give up the young doctor, and each time her mother pleaded it seemed that Frances seized upon such an occasion as a thing to bind her affections for Dr. Hyde, the stronger.

In exasperation, and desperation as well, at the stubbornness of her daughter, Mrs. Swope took Frances and bundled her off to an aunt in Arkansas.

Plans for Wedding Are Made At Once.

The moment that Frances reached her aunt she wrote to her young lover where she was ensconced, and Dr. Hyde went posthaste to the town.

The night of his arrival Frances made an excuse to her aunt, went out for two hours, and when she returned, calmly announced to her mortified, as well as astounded relative that she (Mrs. Hyde) was going back to Kansas City because her husband didn't care to be separated from her for any length of time. By the time the smoldering salts had revived her aunt, Mrs. Frances Swope-Hyde was ready for her return home.

Her clandestine marriage, however, estranged her from her family, and it was only a short time before the death of Colonel Swope that she and the family were united again in harmonious relations.

Thus we have the facts standing in their proper relation to one another when Colonel Swope died. Now to the engrossing story that rivals in its aspects the tales that have come down to us from the time that poisoning was a fine art.

A VITAL POINT.

VITALLY embodied in the first chapter is the fact that Colonel Swope was on the point of changing his will, disposing of property valued at \$300,000 among his nephews and nieces, and leaving one-half of that sum to Kansas City. Ten years before he had given the city Swope Park, a beautiful stretch of country, 1,34 acres in area and worth \$1,000 an acre. It is upon this will that one must base the belief that some person who wished to benefit endeavored by the subtlest method that could be employed to poison an entire family for the gain of a millionaire's estate.

One must begin sequentially to tell the story now that the prodigy is completed. In the will made by Colonel Swope, which was drawn a number of years ago, he made a number of charitable bequests and left the rest of the estate, estimated at from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000, to his relatives. He created James Moss Hutton, his friend, an executor, together with Stewart M. Fleming, a nephew, living near Nashville, and James M. Paxton, who for years had been his legal adviser.

On the night of October 1, 1902, Hutton was taken sick at the Swope home in Independence, and two hours later died in convulsions. No suspicion was attached to his death, as it was believed that he had been stricken with apoplexy, and as such the death certificate was signed by the physician, who was none other than Dr. Hyde. Two days later Colonel Swope took a capsule containing a relative, ordered by Dr. Hyde, and an hour later died in convulsions. As in the case of Hutton his death certificate read: "Apoplexy," signed by the same physician.

Hutton was buried in the family plot at Forest Hill, but the body of Colonel Swope was placed in a receiving tomb in the cemetery.

Several months passed after the death of Swope and his attendant without producing the slightest inquiry into the mystery that has since interested a continent.

Typhoid Epidemic

In the Swope Family.

But, in the early part of December, the Swope household was attacked by a malady of typhoid fever, that resulted in ten persons being stricken, and the death of Christian Swope.

In order that these prior events may not be permitted to dim the importance of the present, it is suffice to say that on December 2 Christian Swope and Margaret, his sister, were stricken with typhoid fever; and the former, after being given a capsule during the prog-

VICTIMS OF MYSTERIOUS EPIDEMIC



LUCY LEE SWOPE, Who Was Ill of Typhoid Fever.



COL. THOMAS H. SWOPE, Whose Death Aroused National Interest.

ress of his disease to the time of December 6, died within an hour after taking the medicine.

Since that time it has been proven that the capsule was of the same nature as that which Colonel Swope took when he died in convulsions. It was in the same manner that Christian Swope died.

In order, the others stricken were: December 4, Miss Cora Dickson, the governess in the family and a "gate" of "Tom" Swope; Miss Sangster, the seamstress, and a negro servant named Coppidge. One day later, Stewart M. Fleming, an executor, who was attending his uncle's funeral, fell a victim, and on December 3, Sarah Swope, four years old, daughter of Mrs. Logan Swope, became ill.

Two days later Stella Swope was stricken, and on December 22 the last person to become ill, Miss Lucy Lee Swope, who had returned from Europe on the receipt of news of her uncle's death, became a victim.

None of these, however, was seriously ill.

Mrs. Logan Swope

Communicates Suspicion.

Mrs. Logan Swope, the mother of the majority of the typhoid victims, was the person who brought the investigation and its resultant effects to a head. She communicated certain things, which were well grounded suspicions in her mind, to Dr. Paxton, an executor and her legal adviser since the death of her husband. As a result, he had the bodies of "Tom" Swope and his nephew, Christian, taken from the vaults and the organs removed and sent to Chicago for a chemical analysis. It will forestall the real story to enlarge greatly on the result of the analysis, but the prominent doctors in Chicago, namely, Dr. Walter S. Haynes, an eminent toxicologist, and Prof. Ludwig Hektoen, of the University of Chicago, examined the viscera of the dead men and made a report that a white stomach had been found in the stomach of each, which they tested, and the results of the recent investigation, on behalf of the Swope family, engaged the best firm of criminal lawyers in Kansas City to advise, counsel, and help them.

Once it was known that the bodies of Colonel Swope and his nephew had been taken from the vaults, with the concomitant autopsy, which was ordered when the report from the analyses was made, gossip started.

\$700,000 Libel

Suit Against Physicians.

So prolific was this unsubstantiated chatter that, on January 31, Dr. B. Clark Hyde, husband of Mrs. Frances Swope Hyde, niece of the late colonel, instituted a suit for criminal libel against Paxton, Dr. Frank Hall, and Dr. E. L. Stewart, for amounts aggregating \$700,000. The case came to a rapid termination for a time when Judge Herman Brumbaugh issued a restraining order to keep the parties to the suit from taking depositions. The connection of the defendants should be stated so that a coherent view of the matter can be taken. When the typhoid epidemic in the home of the Swope became widespread Mrs. Swope had the sanitary and drainage examined and the water tested. The plumber, who examined the drainage, testified that it was perfect, the sanitary conditions were found to be of the best, and the physicians also testified that their chemical analysis of the water used for drinking and bathing purposes showed it free from germs of any nature. Dr. Hall and Dr. G. T. Twyman, the family physician, performed the analyses, and Dr. Stewart, in connection with the suit is startling. He claimed to have given a test tube of typhoid germs to Dr. Hyde on November 16.

Then comes another strange feature in this most baffling of cases. Mrs. Lucy Lee Swope was in Europe when her uncle died. A cablegram was sent to her, reaching her about the first of December. She immediately curtailed her tour of the continent and started at once for home.

Miss Lucy Falls Ill

After Her Return Home.

Dr. Hyde met her in New York and Miss Lucy returned home and in seven days she fell ill with typhoid.

Margaret Swope, who was stricken at the same time that her brother Christian was attacked, seemed to become remarkably convalescent with the departure of Dr. Hyde, so the latter claimed. The latter, upon his return, went to visit Margaret to change the medicine, the charge is made, and then left for Kansas City.

Hardly two hours after his departure Miss Margaret Swope was taken

WEB OF EVIDENCE SHOCKS FRIENDS

The nurse who attended Colonel Swope until his death tells the coroner's jury that Swope died suddenly after he had seemingly been recovering.

The same woman tells of Dr. Hyde and another physician taking Swope's will from the sick room after the latter's death.

Miss Pearl Keller tells the jury that she resigned from service in the Swope household "because there was too much mystery" to suit her.

Kansas City physicians and officials are so horrified at the suspicions being cast upon Dr. Hyde that they at first refused to harken to the stories.

Dr. Hyde produces a sensation by proving that an alleged quick doctor of Kansas City had prescribed strychnine tablets as a relief for Swope's attacks of indigestion.

After the coroner's inquest Dr. Hyde is charged with murder and libel and on \$50,000 bond, pending action by a specially summoned Federal grand jury.

with convulsions and Dr. Twyman hastily summoned. He prescribed morphine, which acted as an emetic. The expulsion was saved and analyzed, and showed strychnine.

This latest harassing settled the five nurses, who had been engaged to attend the patients. Led by Miss Pearl Keller, one of the figures in the story from this time onward, they met Dr. Twyman at the Swope home and threatened to relinquish their positions unless Dr. Hyde was withdrawn from the case. Miss Keller claimed that the same sort of tablet which had been given to Christian Swope and Margaret, the directions to administer emanating from the same source, had produced some dire results, except that Margaret's case had been taken in hand in time to prevent a third death.

Miss Keller quit on the spot, with the enigmatic remark that there was too much mystery in the Swope house to suit her, and she washed her hands of the entire affair. Her position was fortified by the similar action of the other nurses.

Says Dr. Hyde

Was Unjustly Suspected.

Stronger statements, directed against one man, horrified Dr. Twyman, and he said he disbelieved anybody could be guilty of such heinous action as the nurses suspected. Dr. Twyman said he thought that Dr. Hyde was resting under unjust suspicion, and said he should be informed of matters and given the right to counteract them by his defense.

Mrs. Hyde, who had been in constant attendance upon her relatives, immediately took the side of her husband. She stated to her mother that in view of the events of the night and the unspoken suspicions which her mother entertained, she, the doctor's wife, could no

longer remain under her mother's roof. In company with her husband, and bowing to her mother in a haughty manner, Mrs. Hyde left and went home.

When Dr. Hyde, within the following few days, made no further attempt to see Paxton, or to communicate with him and enter a general denial of the charges brought by the nurses, the suspicions of Mrs. Swope broke out afresh. That woman demanded that the bodies of her son and her brother-in-law be taken from the vaults and submitted to an autopsy, while a chemical analysis be performed on the viscera.

Requests Persistent

For An Autopsy on Bodies.

Requests for an autopsy had now become imperative commands. In order to insure the publicity of the innocence or the guilt of the person to whom the finger of accusation was steadily pointed examination by experts was essential. Paxton, therefore, who was placed in charge of this phase of the mystery, consulted with friends in Chicago, and was given the name of Prof. Ludwig Hektoen as an authority on infectious diseases. Paxton went to Chicago and conferred with the doctor. The latter told him that to insure the fullest investigation it was essential to have the services of a toxicologist. Dr. Haynes was chosen, as his reputation as an authority is fixed. Dr. Haynes first concerned himself with the matter expelled from the stomach of Margaret Swope after her convulsions on the night that

CALL SPECIAL GRAND JURY TO MAKE INVESTIGATION

Opinions Are Divided in Social Circles in Which Suspected Physician Moves—Has Many Loyal Friends.

she was treated by Dr. Hyde upon the latter's return from New York. The analysis showed strychnine.

THE SIX CULTURES.

ABOUT the time that this family investigation was being conducted, Dr. Edward L. Stewart, who has practiced in Kansas City for about seven years, and is known as one of the rising young physicians of the State, and who has established a marked reputation as a bacteriologist, threw a bombshell into the case, that exploded with a force that set tongues of gossip agog with chattering.

When he came to give study to the baffling mystery he suddenly recollected an occurrence that startled everybody into accepting and promulgating theories, giving to them the color and tinge of those days when killing was an art, and not a butchery.

In order that the reader may get the potent force of the sensation, it must be told as given by Paxton. Dr. Stewart called him on the telephone one day, and said that he had suddenly remembered, during the time Dr. Hyde was in New York, that previously the latter had called on him one day and wanted some cultures on which to experiment. Dr. Hyde, at the time, said he had become interested in bacteriology.

Removes Portion

Of Remaining Cultures.

Dr. Stewart gave his brother physician at the time six cultures, two of which were those of the typhoid bacilli. When the light broke upon him, that perhaps the keynote of the mystery might lie in those cultures, which he had given away on November 10, 1902, Dr. Stewart went to the office of Dr. Hyde to secure their return.

The latter was not there, but he found a young woman clerk, and to her Dr. Stewart repeated that he wished to secure some typhoid cultures, as he had given some a short time before to Hyde. The young woman told him where the cultures were and Stewart found the typhoid culture and discovered that one-half of it had been used. Dr. Stewart removed a portion of the remainder, and by the practice used by physicians showed how much had been taken.

Later, meeting Dr. Hyde, Stewart asked him if he had ever used any of the typhoid cultures, and the latter, according to Stewart, stated that he had not, or gave him some answer which Stewart construed as meaning substantially that Hyde had made no use of the typhoid cultures.

Dr. Hyde himself produced something of a sensation when he proved that an alleged quick doctor named Dr. Charles Hated Chazares Jordan, who practiced in Kansas City, Kansas, had prescribed tablets for Colonel Swope and Christian, which were sup-

posed to be composed of some South American herbs. Dr. Jordan admitted that he had prescribed, but stated that the sedatives which Swope had taken were not the prescriptions he filled.

Found No Clot

On Brain, Says Physician.

It was not until the afternoon session that testimony began to produce the meat of the inquest. Dr. Edward Stewart, the man who relates the story of the typhoid cultures, was present at the inquest as an amanuensis for the other physicians, comprising Drs. Hektoen, Hall and Twyman. He recited the method of performing an autopsy, the state of the various organs, all of which he said seemed to be normal, and then gave the first shock to the spectators by stating that the brain showed an absence of blood clot, such as must be found in all cases of apoplexy.

Sylvester Spangler, who managed the real estate holdings of Tom Swope, told of peculiarities about his client, and how he was a fiend for taking medicines to cure the stomach troubles to which he was a victim for years. He told how Swope had some tablets, which were composed of strychnine and other drugs.

Miss Keller, the nurse, the next witness, told of being engaged by Dr. Hyde.

She testified that on the morning that she informed him of the death of Moss Hutton, his old retainer, that Swope was insistent that Dr. Hyde be not allowed to visit him that day.

Miss Keller resumed her story at the morning session of the second day.

Declares Hyde

Ordered Strychnine.

Deliberately the nurse accused Dr. Hyde. She began by recounting a portion of her testimony on the previous day, and then in answer to a carefully phrased question of the coroner said that she had administered strychnine to Swope, acting under the orders of Dr. Hyde.

This caused a thrill among the spectators, which was supplemented in a short time by Miss Keller's description of the death scene of Colonel Swope. Simplicity that was dramatic, intensely so, marked her narrative of the scene. Swope had been informed of the death of Hutton.

Swope Dies

After Taking Pellet.

An hour later Dr. Hyde arrived in the house. He inquired for the condition of the patient, and upon receiving the information from the nurse, said that "the colonel should have something for his indigestion." Thereupon, according to the nurse, he took from his pocket a small box, which contained

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